

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

As is shown in Figs. 2a-2d, each time a single flexible hose 1 extends from the first floating structure 12 to the offloading buoy 3. Multiple offloading buoys 3 may be used, at different distances from the floating structure, each time a single large-diameter flexible hose according to the present invention extending extends from the floating structure to a respective offloading buoy.